

ABSTRACT

SOCIAL WORK

COLLINS, DARISSA L.

B.S.W. OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY, 2008

A STUDY OF THE PERCEPTION HELD BY EX-OFFENDERS OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Advisor: Hattie M. Mitchell, MSW

Thesis dated May 2009

Undeniably, ex-offenders make up a notable portion of the citizens in communities across this country. This reality has prompted thousands of communities to develop services that will assist with the transition from prison into society. This study will examine the literature and discuss a number of the current services that are available to ex-offenders and how the presence of family support can influence the transitional experience. This thesis will present a calling to the social work profession to implement programs that evaluate the perception held by ex-offenders of the current services that are rendered and assist in building healthy family systems for the community at large.

A STUDY OF THE PERCEPTION HELD BY EX-OFFENDERS
OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FAMILY SUPPORT

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

BY

DARISSA L. COLLINS

WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR., SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

MAY 2009

© 2009

DARISSA L. COLLINS

All Rights Reserved

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
LIST OF TABLES.....	iv
CHAPTER	
I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
Statement of the Problem.....	2
Purpose of the Study.....	3
Research Questions.....	3
Hypotheses.....	4
Significance of the Study.....	4
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....	5
Historical Perspective.....	5
Individual Characteristics.....	6
Local and State Policies.....	8
Current Services Rendered to Ex-Offenders.....	11
Community Acceptance and Family Support.....	15
Afrocentric Perspective.....	20
Theoretical Framework.....	21
III. METHODOLOGY.....	24
Research Design.....	24
Description of the Site.....	24
Sample and Population.....	25
Data Collection.....	25
Treatment of Data.....	25
Limitations of the Study.....	26
IV. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS.....	27
Demographic Data.....	27
Research Questions and Hypotheses.....	32
V. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS.....	36
Summary of the Study.....	36
Implications for Social Work Practice.....	38

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(continued)

CHAPTER	PAGE
APPENDICES.....	40
Appendix A. Letters of Consent.....	41
Appendix B. IRB Approval Letter.....	43
Appendix C. Survey Questionnaire.....	44
Appendix D. SPSS Program Analysis.....	46
REFERENCES.....	50

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
1. Demographic Profile of Study Participants.....	28
2. The services of this program are beneficial to my transition into the community.....	29
3. The services of and staff of this program have assisted in building my self-esteem.....	29
4. The providers of this program have sought my opinion of its effectiveness.....	30
5. My family gives me the emotional support that I need.....	31
6. My family has assisted me with my transition into the community.....	31
7. Cross-tabulation of ethnicity and opinions sought of programs effectiveness (N=30).....	33
8. Cross-tabulation of marital status and emotional support given by family (N=30).....	34

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Millions of men, women, boys, and girls have paid their debts to society by being incarcerated. For centuries, state prisons have attempted to protect the community by punishing and redirecting the civil violator. Unfortunately, even with the presence of state prisons, recidivism studies show that 40 to 70 percent of released prisoners commit new crimes once they are released (Skoler, 1971). It has been observed that ‘tough’ correction, i.e., locking up prisoners, is not an effective crime control technique (Skoler, 1971). This country has recognized that the existence of state prisons is a temporary solution to the seemingly infinite problem of crime. Therefore, many proactive interventions have been adopted to assist ex-felons in correcting criminal behavior. Community support systems are one form of intervention that is designed to assist ex-offenders with their transition into the community and a new lifestyle.

“Prior research has consistently found that control oriented probation practices that exclusively monitor behavior with rigid enforcement of conditions are more likely to increase recidivism, while strategies that focus more on instilling prosocial attitudes and addressing criminogenic needs decrease them” (Cox, Bantley, Roscoe, & Hill, 2005). Community support systems designed for ex-felons come in the form of job placement, housing assistance, life insurance, educational support, etc. Community support systems

are methods to reduce crime by making socially acceptable behavior more desirable and criminal activities less desirable (Mollar & Thornton, 1978). The question to be answered is, do ex-felons perceive these services as beneficial?

Community services offer many resources for the ex-offender. The offender needs to feel more human and strengthen his self respect, achieve the educational skills necessary to function in the modern community, sharpen the job skills required to handle a productive work role and earn a fair wage, and develop the social skills requisite to operate comfortably in the free community; in short, he must learn how to better handle his freedom (Skoler, 1971, p. 35). If the offender believes that the services are beneficial, then, more than likely, the community will have this same testimony.

Community support services designed for ex-felons have been propelled through the social work profession. An essential component to the social services profession is program evaluations. Program evaluations are used to decide whether a program has worth or merit (Royse, 2008, p. 294). An evaluation of the perception held by ex-felons of the community services rendered will assist in giving guidance to these services.

Statement of the Problem

Upon release, inmates have a two in three chance of being reincarcerated, either through reoffense or a violation of probation or parole. Of United States (U.S.) prisoners released in 1994, 67.5 % were reincarcerated within 3 years. Moreover, the rate of reincarceration in the U.S. is steadily on the rise (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004). This statistic pronounces a breakdown with the correctional services that are rendered to those who have been sentenced to imprisonment. Unknown to many, the issue of imprisonment

and recidivism is relevant to the average citizen. In 2003, 2.1 million Americans were behind bars (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003). In FY 2001, the average cost of housing an inmate in a U.S. prison was \$22,650 per year (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003). Housing in local jails costs upward of \$29,000 per year, due to the high costs of maintaining smaller facilities.

It is apparent, from the data above, that it is in the best interest of the community to provide services that ex-offenders perceive as beneficial and life altering. The community services tailored toward ex-felons must insure that the ideas, complaints, and accolades from the target population are considered when forming these services.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the perception held by ex-felons of family support and community services that are offered to assist in the transition from the penal system to a free society. This study will grant social workers ample evidence that will highlight the effectiveness of community services and will provide suggestions that will benefit the delivery of services to ex-felons and their families.

Research Questions

The research questions of this study were as follows:

1. Is there a relationship between ethnicity of participants and providers of community services seeking opinions on the effectiveness of the program?
2. Is there a relationship between the marital status of ex-offenders and the emotional support given by family members?

Hypotheses

The null hypotheses of the study were as follows:

1. There is no statistically significant relationship between ethnicity of participants and providers of community services seeking opinions on the effectiveness of the program.
2. There is no statistically significant relationship between the marital status of ex-offenders and the emotional support given by family members.

Significance of the Study

Most serious offenders remain within the community and in the midst of the average citizen either on probation or parole (Skoler, 1971, p. 35). The effectiveness of the services that are provided to ex-felons could be more relevant to the average American that realized the possible benefits to the community. There is evidence that criminogenic beliefs and proneness to guilt are each predictive of re-offense after release from jail (Tangney, Mashek, & Stuewig, 2007). This study is significant because it identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the services that are provided to ex-felons. A comprehensive study of releases in one year found that 62 percent of state prison releases were rearrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within three years, 47 percent were reconvicted and 41 percent were re-incarcerated (Skoler, 1971, p. 30). When the perceptions held by ex-felons are revealed, the strengths and weakness can be observed and recommendations made to improve the effectiveness of the programs.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The purpose of this review of the literature is to grant the reader a scholarly foundation that will validate the necessity for performing a descriptive study of the perceptions held by ex-felons of family support and community services that are rendered to assist with their integration into society. This review of literature will provide a historical background that relates to community services and family support, a theoretical framework of reference, and current research developments.

This review of literature will investigate four major dimensions that relate to an ex-offenders' transition into the community. These four dimensions include: individual characteristics, community contexts, state policies, and family relationships. The literature provides insight to how these variables may impact an individual that is seeking to reintegrate into the community. Finally, this review of literature will discuss the lack of input that ex-offenders contribute to the services offered by the community and their perception of family support.

Historical Perspective

A host of ex-offender employment programs were launched in the early 1960's along with many other social programs (Buck, 2000). At that time, there was an obvious need for intentional support and assistance to be given to ex-offenders as they

transitioned into the community. The number of services available in this country has continued to multiply to meet the ever growing ex-offender population. In 2002, over 600,000 individuals left state and federal prisons, four times as many as were released in 1975 (Royse & Clear, 2002). However, according to a national study, within 3 years almost 7 in 10 ex-offenders will have been rearrested and half will be back in prison, either for a new crime or for violating conditions of their release (Travis, 2000, p. 89). Recidivism is directly affected by post prison reintegration and adjustment, which, in turn, depends on four sets of factors: personal and situational characteristics, including the individuals' social environment of peers; family; community; and state-level policies (p. 89). The following pages will discuss the factors mentioned above and how gaining the perception that ex-offenders hold concerning community services and family support will be beneficial for the community at large.

Individual Characteristics

Pre-prison circumstances may affect the transition from prison to the community. Work history, job skills, criminal history, demographic profile, substance abuse involvement, and family characteristics are factors that will contribute to the attitude and perspective that an individual may hold on life. Therefore, who a person is before he or she has entered prison will have an impact on the effectiveness of the transition into the community. According to Travis (2000), poor employment histories and job skills of returning prisoners created diminished prospects for stable employment and decent wages upon release (p. 95).

“People who were employed full time or who attended school before they entered prison had a recidivism rate of 25.6 percent versus 60.2 percent for those not so engaged” (Buck, 2000). Many offenders have the opportunity to sharpen previous job skills while in prison and when released are able to present work history and possible improved skills to a potential employer. These factors may benefit an ex-offender when released from prison.

An individual’s social environment of peers prior to their incarceration is another factor that will influence their transition back into their communities. What peers are ex-offenders being reunited with as they return to the community? What is expected in order to gain acceptance within these peer groups? If the peer groups are involved with substance abuse and other illegal activities, then there is a heightened possibility that the newly released inmate may reoffend.

Peer networks within prisons are also groups that may influence behaviors when an inmate is released. Other inmates may encourage illegal behaviors and ensure ways to avoid being caught by law enforcement. Over time, this influence may produce a less sensitive perception to various illegal behaviors. The influence within the prison system is powerful. Living, working, and eating with other criminals can promote a positive change or encourage illegal activities. Lengthy exposure to the harsh, impersonal conditions of prison life and the institutionalization that results from living in such an environment may have short- and/or long-term effects on an individual’s ability to readjust to life outside of prison (Adams, 1992). On the other hand, if an inmate has the opportunity to connect with the “right crowd,” this too may influence his or her behavior

when released from prison. Supportive peers who do not engage in crime and drug abuse may prevent reoffending (Travis, 2000, p. 90).

Marriage has been seen as a factor that has benefited offenders when released from prison. “People living with a spouse after release had lower recidivism rates than did those with other post-related living arrangements--20 percent living with a spouse recidivated versus 47.9 percent with other release arrangements” (Buck, 2000). Having a spouse may supply the emotional and material supports that encourage ex-offenders to abandon illegal behaviors.

Local and State Policies

State and local policies also affect an individual's transition from prison to the community. Former prisoners face housing regulation that can deny felons access to public housing, eligibility rules for substance abuse treatment, and difficulty accessing medical care and obtaining needed medication (Burke, 2001). Many times these blunt impacts of public policy present additional obstacles for the ex-offenders' transition into the community.

The existence of state prisons can be traced back to the early 1800s (Rafter, 1985, p. 1). The negative attitudes possessed by society toward felons have improved since the formation of state correctional facilities. Unfortunately, this improvement has not yet freed felons from facing discrimination when released from prison. According to Byron Harrison, R. Schehr, and Robert Carl (2004), “As many felons search for legitimate work opportunities, they must deal with the stigma attached to a criminal record and legally enforced employment restrictions barring them from working in several occupations” (p.

1). Not only are felons barred from certain occupations, but there are intentional limits placed on their professional development. “Most states and the federal government prohibit ex-offenders from accessing public aid funds or financial assistance for school” (p. 1). These individuals are released from prison just to be chained to the lower-class in society.

The factors that contribute to the transitional complications of an ex-offender are numerous. There are various laws that are in place that work against the ex-offender. For example:

In seven states ex-cons cannot work in public service or run for political office. Pennsylvania bars all ex-offenders from working in health care jobs. This means that a person convicted of bribery or shoplifting would never be able to sweep the halls of a hospital. A person cannot become a real estate appraiser in Alaska if he or she has been convicted of a crime ‘involving moral turpitude’; he or she cannot become a barber in Ohio if he or she has been convicted of any felony (Hennssey, 2004).

These states have implemented laws to protect themselves from law suits for negligent hiring. However, these laws are limiting the very citizens that are a part of the community. As individuals transition from prison back into the community, the barriers for employment, education, and housing can cause additional strain on their process of transition. To assist with these dilemma faced by ex-offenders, there have been multiple bills and policies that have been put in place to assist the ex-offender with the transition into the community.

The Training Act of 1962 mandated the Department of Labor to devise and provide programs responding to the employment needs of ex-felons. These departments have launched manpower training projects within prisons and have worked with newly released inmates. Unfortunately, evaluations of these efforts found little evidence of success (Berk, Lenihan, & Rossi, 1980). The Department of Labor then turned to testing short-term, income support strategies for the period immediately after release from prison (Berk, Lenihan, & Rossi, 1980). This technique proved to have some success, but there was still much needed improvement in the area of assisting ex-offenders with their transition into the community and job placement.

Another avenue utilized to assist ex-offenders with their transition into the community is the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). Programs that are fostered under the Job Training Partnership Act provide eligibility of unemployment benefits or the alternative of job counseling for individuals that are recently released from prison (Berk, Lenihan, & Rossi, 1980). The counseling alternative was thought to speed an ex-offenders reentry into the labor force and, consequently reduce participation in criminal activity.

The second intervention was thought to subsidize the job search. Ex-prisoners were followed for up to two years in order to gauge immediate and long-term effects. The placement and counseling intervention apparently had no impact on rearrest, but the payments eligibility intervention reduced rearrests for property crimes about 8 percent (Berk, Lenihan, & Rossi, 1980). Evidence shows that participants in JTPA programs who receive employment and vocational training have lower recidivism rates than those who do not (Harrison, Schehr, & Carl, 2004). However, there is no conclusive evidence

indicating that vocational guidance and assistance programs successfully reduce recidivism for large numbers of ex-offenders (Harrison, Schehr, & Carl, 2004).

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is an additional effort that is in place to ensure that ex-offenders receive assistance when transferring into the community. “Two of the major features of the Act are: ‘Universal access to services -- everyone is entitled to receive basic services to help him or her become employed or retain employment’” (Hennessy, 2004). This vital service allows ex-offenders to have resources in their communities that will assist with the transition back into society. The second major feature of the WIA is the “Adoption of a one-stop service center where customers can receive employment-based services. This serves to create equal opportunities for applicants to receive help in gaining employment” (Hennessy, 2004).

The one-stop service center is helpful for those who do not have personal transportation or cannot afford public transportation to go to several different centers that are all working to accomplish the same task. Additional benefits of the WIA are the programs that are available as a result of this act. “The WIA helps to reinforce prison training programs; when ex-cons are released they can use services provided by this Act. This allows the ex-con to be helped in and out of prison so that they can gain further employment” (Hennessy, 2004). This is an important strategy. Many ex-convicts are released from prison and are facing a work force in which there is no familiarity. The WIA is beginning to reach the inmates while they are in prison. This strategy is assisting in their transition into the work world.

Current Services Rendered to Ex-Offenders

The resurgence of interest in ex-offender programs has manifested in a plethora of state initiatives. In 2002, the federal government awarded \$100 million to the states to help them develop more effective reentry programs (Royse & Clear, 2002). States are developing new employment programs for ex-offenders. Three innovative programs targeted towards ex-offenders include: Operation TOPSTEP in Georgia, Montgomery County Pre-release Center in Maryland, and Offender Job Linkage in Ohio.

Operation TOPSTEP was initiated in 1998 (Buck, 2000). This program consists of three steps. The first step in this program begins while the individual is incarcerated. “Revamped prison-industries programs offer inmates opportunities for work experience in fields that are in demand” (Buck, 2000). This allows prisoners to use their service to benefit themselves and the community.

Step two also occurs in prison. “The Department of Labor staff conducts job preparedness workshops that assess inmates’ job readiness, review programs completed while in prison, and design resumes. This packet of information is forwarded to the inmates’ parole officer and can benefit the ex-offender upon release” (Buck, 2000). This step may also assist in preparing the inmate mentally for his or her release. The offender will know the skills that he or she possesses and may be more confident when released as a result of this information that is waiting for them when they meet their parole officer.

The third step of this program is when the ex-offender and parole officer meet. The four tracks that the offender can be signed to when he or she meets with the parole officer include employment, education, substance abuse, or cognitive skills training.

(Buck, 2000) This service assists the ex-offender by providing the opportunity to have a stable starting point to integrate back into the community.

The Montgomery County Pre-release Center is a 500 bed jail that focuses on post release (Selenznaw, 2000). Inmates are sent to this program when there are 6 months left in their sentence. This program offers a holistic treatment center for employment services, substance abuse counseling, and life skills training (Selenznaw, 2000). Inmates face numerous uncertainties when released from prison. The Montgomery County Pre-release program is working to assist offenders in becoming stable citizens of a community. "This program requires inmates to obtain full time employment or training while participating in a rigorous schedule of group counseling, life skills and addiction recovery seminars" (Selenznaw, 2000). This busy schedule can contribute to the preparation of inmates for the obligations that are faced on the daily basis of a working adult.

The third program is the Ohio Offender Job Linkage. This program began in 1997 to assist in lowering the high recidivism rates and state expenses (Buck, 2000). The state began coordinating prison job fairs to educate employers and address the concerns about hiring ex-offenders (Buck, 2000). Fear can be a life limiting emotion, especially when there is a lack of knowledge. Informing potential employers of the facts, benefits, and risks of hiring ex-offenders may assist to build a better community. Many times companies can benefit when an ex-offender is hired. This benefit is not just limited to the employer, but the ex-offender benefits by having employment and, therefore, this can benefit the community at large.

There are multiple services all around this country that are designed to assist ex-offenders with their transition into the community. Better People is a program stationed in Portland, Oregon. This program focuses on changing the way that ex-offenders think through the cognitive behavioral model moral reconnection therapy (MRT), in conjunction with job placement and retention services, to achieve the goal of reduced recidivism (Buck, 2000). The methods utilized within this program are assisting in creating new ways of thinking and, therefore, new behaviors.

Another program that is offered to ex-convicts is the Office of Correctional Job Training and Placement (OCJTP). This program is a result of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Buck, 2000). “This office works solely on helping developing job skills and training that will be useful when the offender is re-integrated into society” (Hennessy, 2004). Offenders need direct and intentional attention from trained individuals that can assist in meeting temporary and long term goals. “OCJTP offers three comprehensive programs aimed at raising the skill and knowledge level of offender work force practitioners and administrators: Offender Work Force Development Specialist Training, Offender Employment Specialist Training, and the Offender Job Retention Distance Learning” (Hennessy, 2004). These programs are designed to meet offenders where they are, and work with them on an individual basis to enhance their opportunities of employment.

As community services attempt to improve the employment opportunities for ex-offenders, it must be noted that the type of employment gained may affect the success of their transition into the community. According to Thomas Oragh and Ann Dryden Witte (1981), there is a relation between the economic status of an ex-offender and his or

her rehabilitation (p. 1056). This concept charges community services to assist in connecting ex-offenders to employment that this long lived. Many times the employment that ex-offenders gain is unattractive. The unpleasant nature of these jobs leads to high turnover rates (p. 1063). This places even more pressure on community services. As providers work to assist ex-offenders with employment, there is an apparent challenge of lowering the turnover rates. Ex-offenders must be willing to endure unpleasant employment for a period until a better position is available or until they acquire the credentials or experience that will allot them to fill a more pleasant position.

The HBL model is derived from the work of Heineke, Block, and Lind. This model states that an increase in legitimate income through welfare, job training, and work releases reduce the likelihood that an individual will commit an offense (Oragh & Witte, 1981, p. 1058). Community services all around this country are seeking to connect ex-offenders with legitimate employment to assist in reducing the probability of an offense.

Support services nationwide designed for ex- offenders have implemented various methods in attempt to assist ex-offenders with their transition into the community. Would a service not be more effective if the clientele had a voice in the services rendered? According to David Royse (2008), every program should be examined and what is learned from these efforts should go back to the managers and service providers to enable them to continually improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their activities (p.295). Throughout the research of this descriptive study, not one article discussed how the clientele viewed the services provided. Consumer satisfaction in relation to ex-offenders and community services is extremely important. The investigation of this correlation will

assist the community in providing services that are tailored to the needs and requests of ex-offenders.

Community Acceptance and Family Support

Individuals returning home from prison have been shaped by their offending and substance-abuse histories, their work skill and job histories, their mental and physical health, their prison experiences, and their attitudes, beliefs and personality traits (Travis, 2000, p. 90). These factors may influence the family support that is available and the level of community acceptance that is given to ex-offenders as they transition into the community.

Families may provide strong support systems for returning prisoners, they may facilitate or enable continued offending or substance-abuse behaviors, or they may be victims of the returning prisoners and want nothing to do with them upon release. Strong ties between prisoners and their families or close friends appear to have positive impact on post release success. Inmates who were classified as maintaining family interest were successful on parole, where as those who were classified as loners experienced significantly lower rates of parole success (Ohlin, 1954).

Family support plays a critical role during the first thirty days immediately following release, specifically in the areas of emotional support and housing assistance. Without social networks in place, ex-offenders have little social support to draw upon during the transition process. Often, however, ties to former friends and gang networks are easily reestablished (Fleisher & Decker, 2001), increasing opportunities for reoffending. Researchers found that family acceptance and encouragement, as well as

perceived emotional support from family were both related to post release success. Recently released inmates who demonstrated the greatest success in employment and abstinence from drugs, generally exhibited optimistic attitudes toward their families acceptance of them (Nelson, 1999, p. 10).

The majority of ex-offenders are parents (Mumola, 2000). The Bureau of Justice Statistics survey in 1999 revealed that approximately 721,500 parents were incarcerated (Solomon, Gouvis, & Waul, 2001). It is reported that there are various challenges to successful reintegration, including reunifying with families and assuming a role of responsibility within the family structure, maintaining sobriety, creating positive support networks and avoiding negative ones, finding stable employment, and obtaining housing. Prisoners returning to the community with weak or no family support were less likely to succeed in reintegration than those with strong family support (Graffam, 2004). It is apparent that family support is a factor that contributes to the successfulness of the reintegration of ex-offenders.

Offenders in transition report a sense of being stigmatized by their communities and fellow residents. They sense that they are labeled as “bad” or otherwise flawed by those living near them. Dealing with stigma offers four possibilities. “Those who feel stigmatized may: (1) actively try to change the others’ opinions; (2) go on about their business, heedless of these opinions; (3) isolate from others who judge them; or (4) move to a new community and start over” (Skogan, 1990).

In an attempt to effectively change the opinions of others, there is a positive implication for social capital. When neighbors form an improved opinion toward one another, there is a renewed sense of reconnectedness within the family and between the

family and the community (Skogan, 1990). This would enhance both belonging and empowerment domains of social capital, as both residents and ex-offenders must learn that they can influence one another's beliefs and mutually share a sense of connection. This connection would enhance a sense of trust among members of the community.

The other options for dealing with stigma have less positive implications for social capital. Either ignoring one's neighbors in daily business or isolating from them promotes a sense of alienation. Reports state that those who are stigmatized avoid contact with others, stop participating in social functions such as church services, and look upon their neighbors with distrust and foreboding (Skogan, 1990). This would undermine a feeling of belonging both for ex-offenders and for residents. As residents withdraw further from each other, participation in community activities diminishes, crime increases and trust erodes (Skogan, 1990).

At times, family members discuss moving as a strategy employed in anticipation of a loved one's return from prison as a way of enhancing the likelihood of successful reentry. Moving has its downside, however. It can be expensive and it means people are farther from social supports. Consequently, supporting networks and reciprocity are negatively impacted by moving (Royse & Clear, 2002, p. 12).

Research shows, that while family and friends may be glad to be reunited with those who have been gone, the social networks suffer the strain of trying to figure out how to reincorporate into the relationship ex-offenders who themselves are relearning how to be "husbands" and "fathers" (Royse & Clear, 2002, p.12). In many cases, newly released inmates have not been present in the home for several years. Regaining trust and respect can be a challenge that affects the success of community reintegration.

Violent prison subcultures foster coping mechanisms that enhance the likelihood inmates will adopt violent responses to conflictual situations. These responses may affect the family support and community acceptance that is given to an ex-offender. Moreover, for many inmates, prison induces psycho-emotional internalization of basic emotions. An increasing number of offenders have mental health problems that are not adequately dealt with in the prison environment; contributing to more severe mental health outcomes in some cases (Graffam, 2004). This makes transitions to healthy relationships beyond prison extremely challenging. Largely because prison subculture fosters social Darwinism, inmate survival instincts generate or maintain gang affiliations and alliances, thereby creating an additional obstacle to successful rehabilitation (Dyer, 2000, p. 44).

Finally, inmates who serve several years become accustomed to the subculture of prison regimentation and isolation and may face serious obstacles while adapting to life outside the structured prison environment. Subsequently, even if it is minimal, the prisonization effect negatively impacts recidivism and employability after offenders are released (Harrison, Schehr, & Carl, 2004).

The Texas Department of Corrections has developed a Family Support Program that is a community-based rehabilitation effort for offenders, their families, children and communities (Johnson, Selber, & Lauderdale, 2001). This program works at multiple levels to increase the level of social support available in the community. They provide individual and group counseling for offenders and their families. Although this program is meeting a vital need, there is no documentation that states that ex-offenders have the opportunity to contribute to the program by stating their perceptions of the services that are rendered.

There is consistent evidence that points to the idea that family support and relationships are vital for an ex-offender. As ex-offenders transition back into the community, the tools needed to reestablish healthy relationships with family and friends are imperative. As this study continues, the perception that ex-offenders hold about the family support that has been given to assist with their transition into the community will be explored.

Afrocentric Perspective

Community services designed to assist ex-offenders relate to African Americans in several ways. For one, statistics show that African Americans are disproportionately affected by incarceration. Almost half the men in prison are African American. African American men are imprisoned at a rate more than six times higher than white men (Mendez, 2000). This imprisonment affects the family dynamics of African American families.

Many of the social problems confronted by African American communities have been attributed to the lack of fathers in the daily setting. Within the United States, 1.8 million men are incarcerated, 60 percent of these men have at least one child which means that there are at least 600,000 children whose fathers are incarcerated (Mendez, 2000, p. 88). The majority of these children are African American. This absence affects the finances of the home, therefore placing more strain on the guardian. This strain can be displayed in a more stressful home environment. When finances are limited, the stress levels in the home are increased. Many times children will see that there is a need for more money and seek to assist in bringing an income into the home. This assistance may

be by a legal means and it may be by an illegal means. This possibility increases the prospect of potential criminal behavior. When there is a lack of finances, there is an increased possibility of criminal behavior (Oragh & Witte, 1981). Therefore, the cycle of incarceration is perpetuated.

The entire family is affected by incarceration. There is not only an increased possibility of financial disparity, but there are also emotional concerns that are present. Many children are faced with embarrassment and anger as they recognize that their fathers are not present because of a chosen illegal behavior. This anger may manifest itself with poor participation in school or unhealthy social behaviors. This, in turn, will place more stress on the guardian.

If the father has gone to prison, then the mother of the child is faced with dealing with loneliness, anger, and raising the child as a single parent. As time passes, the mother may be ready to move into a new relationship and must present this to the child. This presents challenges within the relationship between the mother and child and the father-family relationship when he is released from prison.

There is also the challenge of reconnecting when the father is released from prison. The family may have adjusted to the father's absence and, now that he is present, there are power issues and a disconnection within the home. The father may then feel as if his authority is being challenged and, in turn, feels resistance to his own family. This resistance can be manifested in multiple ways and cause tension in the home.

Findings support that men who have poor father-child relationships are more likely to be depressed (Lanier, 1993). This can manifest itself with poor communicating

skills or poor decisions. It is vital that fathers are assisted with maintaining or creating family relationships when released from prison.

Theoretical Framework

Albert Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory describes the learning in terms of the interrelationship between behavior, environmental factors and personal factors. This theory can be applied when assessing the child of an ex-offender. This theory is aimed at personality development, behavior pathology, and health promotion. These are vital aspects that need attention when dealing with a child that has a father that has recently been released from prison.

On many occasions there is a need to assess and treat the children of ex-offenders. Many of these children have negative feelings that may include depression, abandonment, or low self-esteem. Social workers may apply the Social Cognitive Theory to their intervention process by gaining an understanding of why children have acquired and maintained certain thought processes and behaviors. As environmental factors are analyzed social workers may intervene and assist children with gaining a healthier mindset and in turn assisting in creating behaviors that are more acceptable.

The Social Cognitive Theory is a tool that can be used to assist the children of ex-offenders and in turn affect the family and the entire community. This theory may be used as a guideline to encourage the social worker to include the child's relationship with others and his or her environment to the assessment and intervention process.

Psychodynamic Theory was developed by Sigmund Freud. This theory states that human behavior and relationships are shaped by conscious and unconscious influences.

This can be applied to the behavior of an offender before he or she is incarcerated and the behavior that is apparent after their release. The practitioner will have the task of working with the ex-offender to discover what influences his behavior and how these influences can be prevented.

If an ex-offender has committed a crime as a result of feeling that he or she is alone and has no support, the Psychodynamic Theory would recognize this factor and the practitioner would then have the opportunity to acknowledge the community support that is offered through various services. The Psychodynamic Theory presents a guideline for the social worker to explore the influences that are present within and ex-offenders environment and psyche and work to build healthy influences and dismiss the influences that are not healthy.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Chapter III presents the methods and procedures that were used in conducting the outcome of the evaluation of the perception held by ex-offenders concerning community services and family. The following are described: research design, description of the site, sample and population, treatment of data, and limitations of the study.

Research Design

A descriptive research design was used in this study. The study was designed to obtain data in order to describe the perception that ex-offenders hold toward the services that are rendered within the community to assist with the transition into society and the level of support given by family members.

Description of the Site

The study was conducted at the Samaritan House of Atlanta and Café 458 in Fulton County, Georgia. The site was selected because the target population and community services were readily available. The primary factor that determined the selection of this particular site was the accessibility of ex-offenders who were willing to be surveyed for this study.

Sample and Population

The priority population for this research study was composed of ex-offenders who were seeking assistance with their transition into the community. The participants were comprised of 16 black males, 13 white males, and 1 male who identified his ethnicity as other, ranging in age from 21 to over 40 with education levels of high school, vocational school, and college. The majority of the participants were either never married or divorced, very few were married and only two were widowed. Each participant was an ex-offender who voluntarily participated in the survey.

Data Collection

This study utilized a questionnaire for the data collection. The questionnaire was entitled, *A Study of the Perception Held by Ex-Offenders of Family Support and Services Rendered in the Community*. The information obtained from the questionnaire included the demographic data of surveyed population and opinion responses to gauge each participant's perceived benefit of the community services. A completed questionnaire was obtained from each contributor. The questionnaire was designed to be analyzed by the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Treatment of Data

Data were collected and analyzed by the Statistical Package for Social Sciences. The analysis utilized descriptive statistics, which included measures of the perceived benefit of the community services and the perceived familial support. A demographic profile was developed on the participants. A Likert Scale (1=Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Agree, 4= Strongly Agree) was utilized to analyze the perceptions held by

ex-offenders of the services rendered and the support from family as they transition into the community.

Limitations of the Study

The first limitation of this study is associated with the data collection being limited to the Metro Atlanta area. These findings cannot be generalized to the ex-offender population but simply reflects data collected at the Samaritan House of Atlanta and the Café 458. A second limitation of this study is the lack of the participants' diversity. This limitation confines the evidence provided from the data by failing to reflect the various ethnicities that are affected by imprisonment.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

The purpose of this chapter was to present the findings of the service survey questionnaire. The participants of this study were ex-offenders who have received community services to assist with the transition into the community and expressed their opinions about the family support that was rendered as they transitioned into the community. This chapter presents the findings of this evaluation. The findings were organized into two sections: demographics data and research questions and hypotheses.

Demographic Data

The study participants were comprised of thirty (30) males between the ages of 21 to over 40 years who indicated that the highest level of education were high school (50%), vocational school (17%), and college (30%). Participants indicated that they were married (13%), never married (43%), divorced (37%) and widowed (7%). The ethnicity of the participants were African American (53%), White (43%), and other (3%).

Table 1 is a profile of the study participants. It presents the frequency distributions of the demographics variables.

Table 1

Demographic Profile of Study Participants

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Age Group		
21-30	01	03.0
31-40	05	17.0
Over 40	24	80.0
Gender		
Male	30	100.0
Female	00	00.0
Marital Status		
Married	04	13.0
Never Married	13	43.0
Divorced	11	37.0
Widowed	02	07.0
Ethnicity		
Black/African American	16	53.0
White	13	43.0
Other	01	04.0
Highest Education		
High School/GED	15	50.0
Vocational	05	16.0
College	09	30.0
No Response	01	04.0

Table 2 is a frequency distribution of 30 men indicating whether they disagreed or agreed that the services of the community program were beneficial to their transition into the community.

Table 2

The services of this program are beneficial to my transition into the community

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	03	10.0
Agree	27	90.0
Total	30	100.0

As shown in table 2, of the thirty respondents, 90% indicated that the services that they have received have been beneficial while 10% felt that the community services were not beneficial to their transition into the community.

Table 3 is a frequency distribution of 30 men indicating whether the services and staff of the transitional program have assisted in building their self-esteem.

Table 3

The services of and staff of this program have assisted in building my self-esteem

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	04	13.0
Agree	26	87.0
Total	30	100.0

As shown in table 3, of the thirty respondents, 87% felt that the services and staff had assisted in building their self-esteem.

Table 4 is a frequency distribution of thirty men indicating whether they agree or disagree that the providers of their program have sought their opinion of its effectiveness.

Table 4

The providers of this program have sought my opinion of its effectiveness

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	10	33.0
Agree	20	67.0
Total	30	100.0

As shown in table 4, most participants have been invited to respond to the effectiveness of the transitional program. Of the thirty participants, 20 felt that the providers of the services have sought their opinion of its effectiveness.

Table 5 is a frequency distribution of 30 men indicating whether they agree or disagree that their families have given them the emotional support that they need.

Table 5

My family gives me the emotional support that I need

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	06	20.0
Agree	24	80.0
Total	30	100.0

As shown in table 5, 80% of the respondents felt that their families have given them the emotional support that they need.

Table 6 is a frequency distribution of 30 men indicating whether they agree or disagree that their families have assisted with their transition into the community.

Table 6

My family has assisted me with my transition into the community

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	10	33.0
Agree	20	67.0
Total	30	100.0

As shown in table 6, the majority of the respondents felt that their families have assisted with their transition into the community, while 10 participants felt that their families have not assisted with their transition into the community.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

Research Question 1: Is there a relationship between ethnicity of participants and providers of community services seeking opinions on the effectiveness of the program?

Hypothesis 1: There is no statistically significant relationship between ethnicity of participants and providers of community services seeking opinions on the effectiveness of the program.

Table 7 is a cross-tabulation of the variables ethnicity and opinions sought of programs' effectiveness.

Table 7

Cross-tabulation of ethnicity and opinions sought of programs effectiveness (N=30)

	Opinion of Services					
	Disagree		Agree		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Ethnicity						
Afr American	8	27.0	8	27.0	16	54.0
White	2	6.0	11	37.0	13	43.0
Other	0	0.0	1	3.0	1	3.0
Total	10	33.0	20	67.0	30	100.0

Chi square = .112 df=2

Table 7 indicates that of the 30 men, 11 White men or 37% agreed that providers have sought their opinion of the effectiveness of the services that are rendered. It is interesting to note that although there were more African American participants, White participants were asked their opinion of the services' effectiveness more frequently. As shown in table 7, the chi square test indicated that there was no statistically significant

relationship (.112) between ethnicity and opinions sought of the effectiveness of the services rendered at the .05 level of probability.

Research Question 2: Is there a relationship between marital status and the emotional support that is given by family?

Hypothesis 2: There is no statistically significant relationship between marital status and the emotional support that is given by family.

Table 8 is a cross-tabulation of the variables marital status and emotional support given by family.

Table 8

Cross-tabulation of marital status and emotional support given by family (N=30)

	Marital Status and Emotional Support					
	Disagree		Agree		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Marital Status						
Married	1	3.0	3	10.0	4	13.0
Never Married	3	10.0	10	33.0	13	43.0
Divorced	2	7.0	9	30.0	11	37.0
Widowed	0	0.0	2	7.0	2	7.0
Total	6	20.0	24	80.0	30	100.0

Chi square = .882 df=3

Table 8 indicates that of the 30 participants those that were never married which were 10 or 33.0% received the highest amount of support from family. It is interesting to note, however, that the participants who were married received very little support from family. As shown in table 8, the chi square test indicated that there was no statistically significant relationship (.887) between marital status and emotional support given by families at the .05 level of probability.

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Summary of the Study

This study was designed to describe the perception held by ex-offenders of community services and family support. This study analyzed the community services offered for ex-offenders and the need for family support programs. This study also answered two research questions about the relationship between marital status and emotional support given by family members and the relationship between ethnicity of participants and providers of community services seeking opinions of the programs' effectiveness.

The literature research reviewed for this study revealed that there has been little interest in obtaining the opinions of ex-offenders concerning the community services that are available. The author of this paper did not find literature that presented findings of the ex-offenders opinion of the community services. The social work profession must work to hear the voice of ex-offenders and create an open channel of communication for this population. Not only does the voice of ex-offenders need to be heard concerning the services that are rendered, but this population needs a voice within the employment arena. Social workers can serve as individuals that listen to the desires of potential employers and communicate this to the ex-offenders who are receiving transitional

services. Communication is a powerful tool that needs to be utilized more effectively when serving ex-offenders. Hearing the voice of ex-offenders is needed when attempting to assist with a successful transition into the community.

The discussion of the research findings are presented in this chapter. Each question is presented in order to summarize the significance of interest.

Research Question 1: Is there a relationship between ethnicity of participants and providers of community services seeking opinions on the effectiveness of the program?

In order to determine if there was a relationship between ethnicity of participants and providers of community services seeking opinions on the effectiveness of the program, a cross-tabulation of the two variables was tabulated. The analysis indicated that of the 30 men, 8 African American men or 27 percent stated that the providers sought their opinions of the effectiveness of the services rendered. Also, when the test statistic (chi square) was applied the results indicated that there was no statistically significant relationship (.112) at the .05 level of probability between the two variables.

Research Question 2: Is there a relationship between the marital status of ex-offenders and the emotional support given by family members?

In order to determine if there was a relationship between the marital status of ex-offenders and the emotional support given by family members, a cross-tabulation of

the two variables was tabulated. The analysis indicated that of the 30 men, 80 percent of participants felt that they did receive emotional support from their families. Interestingly enough, participants who were married had nearly the lowest rate, 10%, of emotional support from family. Also, when the test statistic (chi square) was applied the results indicated that there was no statistically significant relationship (.882) at the .05 level of probability between the two variables.

Implications for Social Work Practice

The results of this study provided greater insights into the current knowledge of perceptions regarding community services and family support. Utilizing the findings from this study will promote an atmosphere within the social work profession that combines the knowledge of professionals and the desires of the clients to develop programs that are efficient and life altering for ex-offenders. Social workers have the opportunity to make a difference in the community at large by forming services that are designed to meet the various needs of ex-offenders and allowing this population to have a voice in the services that are provided. This study also examined the relationships that ex-offenders have with family members upon release. This information can be applied to the profession of social work by acknowledging the need for programs that assist ex-offenders with reconnecting with their families.

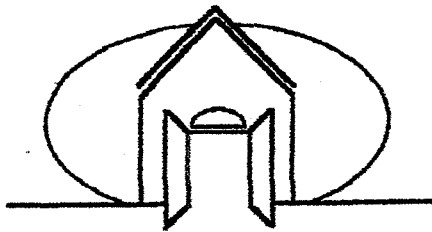
As a result of the findings of this study, the researcher is recommending the following:

1. A larger sample of men from an array of service providers would grant a more holistic perspective of data;

2. An educational effort should be made to inform the service providers that target ex-offenders to ask the clientele if the services have been helpful; and
3. Recruit ex-offenders to volunteer or even work in the programs that are designed to benefit other ex-offenders. They will bring a much needed perspective to the services

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
LETTERS OF CONSENT



**SAMARITAN HOUSE
OF ATLANTA, INC.**
302 Decatur Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30312
p: 404.572.9000 • f: 404.572.9001

November 20, 2008

This is an official letter of consent verifying permission has been granted to Darissa Collins to conduct a service survey questionnaire to the participants of the Samaritan House of Atlanta.

Sincerely,


Charcella Green, PhD

APPENDIX A

(continued)

Administrative Offices | Café 458
t • 404.523.1239 f • 404.681.1592

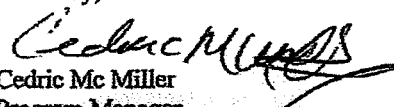


The EDGE
t • 404.572.9000 f • 404.572.9001

November 24, 2008

This is an official letter recognizing that Darissa Collins has been granted permission to distribute a service survey questionnaire here at the Café 458. The participants for this survey will take part on a volunteer basis.

Sincerely,


Cedric Mc Miller
Program Manager

APPENDIX B

IRB APPROVAL LETTER



CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Institutional Review Board
Office of Sponsored Programs

January 28, 2009

Darissa L. Collins <darissa.collins@student.cau.edu>
School of Social Works
Clark Atlanta University
Atlanta, GA 30314

RE: The Perception Held by Ex-Offenders of Community Services and Family Support.

Principal Investigators: Darissa L. Collins

Human Subjects Code Number: HR2009-01-297-1

Dear Ms. Collins:

The Human Subjects Committee of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has reviewed your protocol and approved of it as exempt in accordance with 45 CFR 46.101(b)(2) but with a provision. Beginning immediately, the IRB insists on a mandatory training for all human study investigators. If you have previously completed the NIH IRB Training, that will suffice for now, and we require a copy of your certification. If that training has not been done, then we require you to complete the new IRB Training offered by CITI Program at the Univ. of Miami. This online training can be found at www.citiprogram.org. Please complete this training in the next couple of weeks and notify our office.

Your Protocol Approval Code is HR2009-01-297-1/A

This permit will expire on January 31, 2010. Thereafter, continued approval is contingent upon the annual submission of a renewal form to this office. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Georgianna Bolden at the Office of Sponsored Programs (404) 880-6979 or Dr. Paul I. Musey, (404) 880-6829.

Sincerely:

Paul I. Musey, Ph.D.
Chair
IRB: Human Subjects Committee

cc. "Dr. Hattie Mitchell <hmitchell@cau.edu>
Office of Sponsored Programs, "Dr. Georgianna Bolden" <gbolden@cau.edu>

223 James P. Brawley Drive, S.W. * ATLANTA, GA 30314-4391 * (404) 880-8000

Formed in 1988 by consolidation of Atlanta University, 1865 and Clark College, 1869

APPENDIX C

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

A STUDY OF THE PERCEPTION HELD BY EX-OFFENDERS OF FAMILY
SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IS IMPLEMENTED AMONG
EX-OFFENDER IN FULTON COUNTY GEORGIA

Section I: Demographic Information

Place a mark (x) next to the appropriate item. Choose only one answer for each statement.

1. My age group: 1) ___ Under 21 2) ___ 21-30 3) ___ 31-40 4) ___ Over 41
2. My gender: 1) ___ Male 2) ___ Female
3. Marital status: 1) ___ Married 2) ___ Never Married 3) ___ Divorced
4) ___ Widowed
4. My ethnicity: 1) ___ AfrAmer/Black 2) ___ White 3) ___ Hispanic 4) ___ Asian
5) ___ Other
5. Highest Education: 1) ___ Elementary 2) ___ HighSchool/GED 3) ___ Vocational
4) ___ College

Section II Instrument

The following statements are designed to obtain your opinion concerning the efficiency of support that you receive from your family and your opinion of the community services that are rendered to assist with your transition into society. Write the appropriate number (**1 thru 4**) in the blank space in the front of each statement on the questionnaire. Please respond to all questions.

1= Strongly Disagree 2=Disagree 3=Agree 4= Strongly Agree

- ___ 6. The services of this program are beneficial to my transition into the community.

APPENDIX C

(continued)

- ____ 7. The services and staff of this program have assisted in building my self-esteem.
- ____ 8. The providers of this service have sought my opinion of its effectiveness.
- ____ 9. My family gives me the emotional support that I need.
- ____ 10. My family has assisted me with my transition into the community.

APPENDIX D

SPSS PROGRAM ANALYSIS

TITLE 'EX-OFFENDERS PERCEPTION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES'.

SUBTITLE 'DARISSA COLLINS MSW PROGRAM'.

DATA LIST FIXED/

ID	1-3
AGEGRP	4
GENDER	5
MARITAL	6
ETHNIC	7
EDUC	8
BENEFIT	9
ASSIST	10
OPINION	11
SUPPORT	12
FAMILY	13.

VARIABLE LABELS

ID	'Questionnaire'
AGEGRP	'Q1 My age group'
GENDER	'Q2 My gender'
MARITAL	'Q3 Marital status'
ETHNIC	'Q4 My Ethnicity'
EDUC	'Q5 Highest Education'
BENEFIT	'Q6 The services of this program are beneficial to my transition into the community'
ASSIST	'Q7 The services and staff of this program have assisted in building my self esteem'
OPINION	'Q8 The providers of this service have sought my opinion of its effectiveness'
SUPPORT	'Q9 My family gives me the emotional support that I need'
FAMILY	'Q10 My family has assisted me with my transition into the community'.

APPENDIX D

(continued)

VALUE LABELS

AGEGRP

- 1 'Under 21'
- 2 '21-30'
- 3 '31-40'
- 4 'Over 40/'

GENDER

- 1 'Male'
- 2 'Female/'

MARITAL

- 1 'Married'
- 2 'Never married'
- 3 'Divorced'
- 4 'Widowed/'

ETHNIC

- 1 'AfiAmerican'
- 2 'White'
- 3 'Hispanic'
- 4 'Asian'
- 5 'Other/'

EDUC

- 1 'Elementary'
- 2 'HighSchool-GED'
- 3 'Vocational'
- 4 'College/'

BENEFIT

- 1 'Strongly Disagree'
- 2 'Disagree'
- 3 'Agree'
- 4 'Strongly Agree/'

ASSIST

- 1 'Strongly Disagree'
- 2 'Disagree'
- 3 'Agree'
- 4 'Strongly Agree/'

OPINION

- 1 'Strongly Disagree'
- 2 'Disagree'
- 3 'Agree'
- 4 'Strongly Agree/'

APPENDIX D

(continued)

SUPPORT

- 1 'Strongly Disagree'
- 2 'Disagree'
- 3 'Agree'
- 4 'Strongly Agree'/'

FAMILY

- 1 'Strongly Disagree'
- 2 'Disagree'
- 3 'Agree'
- 4 'Strongly Agree'/'.

RECODE BENEFIT ASSIST OPINION SUPPORT FAMILY (1 THRU 2.99=2)(3 THRU 4.99=3).

MISSING VALUES

AGEGRP GENDER MARITAL ETHNIC EDUC
BENEFIT ASSIST OPINION SUPPORT FAMILY (0).

BEGIN DATA

0014112312343
0024121343234
0033112433344
0044121243144
0054131244444
0063125244444
0074132333333
0084132234422
0094131444444
0103221433344
0114121444242
0122122244432
0133121433223
0144131344444
0154132233311
0164132333333
0174132444444
0184142031333
0193121244444
0204121234333
0214131444244
0224141244444

APPENDIX D

(continued)

0234121244444
0244132243244
0254122244411
0264122234342
0274111411111
0284132443232
0294111233232
0304121211111
END DATA.

FREQUENCIES

/VARIABLES AGEGRP GENDER MARITAL ETHNIC EDUC
BENEFIT ASSIST OPINION SUPPORT FAMILY
/STATISTICS=.

REFERENCES

- Berk, R. A., Lenihan, K. J., & Rossi, P. H. (1980). Crime and poverty: Some experimental evidence from ex-offenders. *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 45, No. 5, (October), 766-786.
- Bishop, H. J. (1989). Toward more valid evaluations of training programs serving the disadvantaged. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 8(2), 209-228.
- Buck, M. L. (2000). Getting back to work: Employment programs for ex-offenders. Market Street, PA: Public Communications Department.
- Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2003). Office of Justice Programs. *Sourcebook on Criminal Justice Statistics*. Washington, DC: GPO.
- Burke, P. B. (2001). Collaboration for successful prisoner reentry: The role of parole and the courts. *Corrections Management Quarterly*, 5(3), 11-22.
- Charles, D., Mallar, D. C., & Thornton, V.C. (1978). Transitional aid for released prisoners: Evidence from the life experiment. *The Journal of Human Resources*, 13(2), 208-236.
- Cox, S. M., Bantley, K., Roscoe, T., & Hill, B.(2005). The effects of Connecticut's probation transition program on reducing technical violations. *Journal Research and Statistics Association*, 10(1).
- Dyer, J. (2000). *The perpetual prisoner machine*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

- Eglash, A. (1958). Adults anonymous: A mutual help program for inmates and ex-inmates. *The Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology, and Police Science*, 49(3), 237-239.
- Fleisher, M. S., & Decker, S. H. (2001). Going home, staying home: Integrating prison gang members into the community. *Corrections Management Quarterly*, 5(1), 65-77.
- Graffam, J. (2004). Variables affecting successful reintegration as perceived by offenders and professionals. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 40(1/2), 147-171.
- Harrison, B., Schehr, R., & Carl, R. (2004). Offenders and post release jobs: Variables influencing success and failures. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 39(3), 35-68.
- Hennessey, P. (2004). Employment with criminal background. *The Prison Journal*, (81), 2.
- Jacobson, D. (1987). The cultural context of social support and support networks. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 1(1), 42-67.
- Johnson, T., Selber, K., & Lauderdale, M. (2001). *Offenders and families: An innovative partnership*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.
- Lanier, C. S. (1993). Affective states of fathers in prison. *Justice Quarterly*, 10(1).
- Mendez G. A. (2000). Incarcerated African American men and their children: A case study. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 569, 86-101.
- Mumola, C. (2000). *Incarcerated parents and their children*. Washington, DC: Department of Justice.

- Nelson, K. E. (1967). Community-based correctional treatment: Rationale and problems. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 374, 82-91.
- Ohlin, L. E. (1954). The routinization of correctional change. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 45(400).
- Oragh, T., & Witte, A. D. (1973). Economic status and crime: Implications for offender rehabilitation. *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 72(3), 1055-1071.
- Rafter, N. H. (1985). Gender, prisons, and prison history. *Social Science History*, 9(3), 233-247.
- Royse, D. (2008). *Research methods in social work*. Belmont, CA: Thornton Higher Education.
- Royse, D., & Clear, T. (2002). Incarceration, reentry and social capital: Social networks in the balance. Retrieved October 14, 2008 from <http://www.hawaii.edu/hivandaids/incarceration>.
- Selenznaw, E. (2000). Universal one-step access: Pipedream of possibility. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 28(3).
- Skogan, W. (1990). *Disorder and decline: Crime and the spiral of decay in American neighborhoods*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Skoler, D. L. 1971). There's more to crime control than the "get tough" approach. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 397(1).
- Solomon, A., Gouvis, C., & Waul, M. (2001). Summary of focus group with ex-prisoners in the district. Urban Institute Justice Policy Center, www.urban.org. Ingredients for Successful Reintegration.

- Tangney, Mashek, & Stuewig. (2007). Changes in inmates' moral emotions and criminogenic beliefs as a function of program involvement. Retrieved October 14, 2008 from http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p2020_index.html.
- Travis, J. (2000). *Sentencing and corrections issues for the 21st century: But they all come back. Rethinking Prisoner Reentry*. Office of Justice Programs. National Institute of Justice. Washington, DC: GPO.
- Uggen, C. (1999). Ex-offenders and the conformist alternative: A job quality model of work and crime. *Social Problems*, 46(1), 127-151.